

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

copying, ~~an optimized library~~ into a user space of a computer system, an [[ the ]] optimized library including [[ an ]] a hardware optimized function [[ for ]] of a hardware device of the computer system; and

~~exporting~~ importing into the user space an entry point for the hardware optimized function, the entry point to be available to an application executing [[ on ]] in the user space ~~the computer system.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising initializing a user library bound to the application, the user library to initiate the copying of the optimized library.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising making a call to the hardware optimized function by the application to initiate execution of the hardware optimized function.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~exporting~~ **importing** the entry point comprises ~~exporting~~ **importing** a memory address of the **hardware** optimized function to a data structure associated with the application.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allocating a buffer in user space to receive the optimized library when copied into the user space.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising validating the optimized library before copying the optimized library into the user space.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the optimized library is validated by verifying a signature of the optimized library.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising advertising the optimized library by firmware of the computer system during operating system runtime.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~plurality of~~ **hardware** optimized function[[ s ]] includes code to optimize at least one operation of at least one hardware device of the computer system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the at least one hardware device includes a Central Processing Unit (CPU) of the computer system.

11. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-readable medium including a plurality of instructions which when executed perform operations comprising:

~~sending, receiving a first request at a user library~~ from an application executing on a **user space of a** computer system **to a user library, a first request** to initialize the user library;

copying ~~an optimized library~~ into [[ a ]] **the** user space ~~of a computer system~~ **an optimized library, the copying** in response to a second request by the user library, the optimized library including [[ an ]] **a hardware** optimized function [[ for ]] **of** a hardware device of the computer system; and

initiating a third request to initialize the optimized library **and** to export an entry point of the **hardware** optimized function to a data structure associated with **in the user space, the data structure to be available to** the application.

12. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising returning a failure indicator by the user library to the application if the initialization of the user library failed.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising requesting the operating system **to** copy the optimized library into the user space via an application program interface (API).

14. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising allocating a buffer in user space to receive the optimized library when copied into the user space.

15. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the at least one hardware device includes a Central Processing Unit (CPU) of the computer system.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising generating the data structure for the application, the data structure to include a memory address corresponding to the **hardware** optimized function.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein exporting the entry point of the **hardware** optimized function comprises entering a memory address of the **hardware** optimized function in the data structure.

18. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising exporting an entry point of a non-optimized function to the data structure in place of the entry point of the **hardware** optimized function if an error occurs while exporting the entry point of the **hardware** optimized function.

19. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein execution of the plurality of instructions further perform operations comprising generating a second data structure to register a function of the user library for use by the optimized library.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to the processor, the storage device including instructions which when executed by the processor perform operations comprising:

recognizing an optimized library advertised by firmware of the computer system, the optimized library including a ~~plurality of~~ **hardware** optimized function[[ s for ]] **of a** ~~at least one~~ hardware device of the computer system;

copying the optimized library into a user space of the computer system; and

~~exporting~~ **importing into user space an** ~~plurality of~~ entry point[[ s ]] corresponding to the ~~plurality of~~ **hardware** optimized function[[ s ]], **the entry point** to **be available to an application executing in the user space** ~~the computer system.~~

21. (Original) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the optimized library is stored in firmware of the computer system.

22. (Original) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the optimized library is stored on a hard disk accessible to the computer system.

23. (Original) The computer system of claim 20 wherein execution of the instructions further perform operations comprising validating the optimized library before copying the optimized library into the user space.

24. (Original) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the firmware to operate in accordance with an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework standard.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 20 wherein the at least one hardware device includes a Central Processing Unit (CPU) of the computer system.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20 wherein exporting the ~~plurality of~~ entry point[[ s ]] comprises providing a ~~plurality~~ memory address[[ es ]] corresponding to the ~~plurality of~~ hardware optimized function[[ s ]] to a data structure associated with the application.